

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-6 are now pending in the application. By this amendment the independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claims 2 and 3. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In contrast with the cited prior art, two features of the present invention are as follows:

- I. The data according to the present invention not only include a plurality of media contents but also the media contents each correspond to one of a plurality of usage grades; and
- II. The present invention enables upgrade of the usage grade by charging an amount of money corresponding to the difference.

Thus, according to the present invention, the package contents put together a plurality of parts, and a plurality of grades (not equal to parts) for usage of the contents. A user selects one "grade" corresponding to a desired usage of the contents, and "a key" for validating the usage of the parts corresponding to the selected part. When a user who purchased a lower grade wants to purchase an upper grade, only a price that is a difference between the lower grade and the upper grade will be charged.

Information Disclosure Statement

In keeping with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants are submitting concurrently herewith an Information Disclosure Statement to bring to the Examiner's attention a reference that was cited in the corresponding Japanese priority application.

Conclusion

In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now fully distinguish applicants' invention over the cited references. Allowance of the application is therefore courteously solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is respectfully encouraged to call the undersigned at 248-641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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